

INFORMATION.

HONGKONG TRADING CO., LTD.

WOOLSTED AND CASHMERE

FOOTBALL JERSEYS

ROWING JERSEYS

SWEATERS

LAWN TENNIS JERSEYS

LAWN TENNIS SASHES

LAWN TENNIS BELTS

LAWN TENNIS SHOES

HONGKONG TRADING CO., LTD.

QUEEN'S ROAD AND DUNDAS STREET.

GOLD MEDALS SILVER MEDALS

By Appointment.

KUNH & CO.

HONGKONG YOKOHAMA

(Established, 1869).

FINE ART.

CHRISTMAS SHOW.

BROWN, JONES & CO.

ITALIAN AND AMERICAN MARBLE

MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS

IN STOCK.

METALLIC AND PORCELAIN

WREATHS AND CRISSES.

A SKILLED EUROPEAN STONEWORKER

SUPERINTENDS ALL WORK

PROFIT ATTENTION TO ORDERS FROM

COASTAL PORTS.

Hongkong, 7th August, 1891.

A. S. WATSON & COMPANY,

LIMITED.

VEGETABLE AND FLOWER

SEEDS.

SEASON 1891-92.

Per ss. "SHANORAI."

We have received our second supplies

of FRESH GARDEN SEEDS.

These are now on hand in all orders

for the same. Complete Catalogues

in English and Chinese, and when ordered

will be sent to you. The seeds are

guaranteed to be of the best quality

and to give the best results. All seeds

are tested on arrival before being

sent out.

Discounts.

Orders from one person, of from \$5 to \$10

allowed 25% discount.

Orders from one person, over \$10 allowed an

extra 5% discount.

NARCISSE BULBS.

The Chinese Spring Flower.

A supply just received from the North.

Daily application is requested.

CLAY'S FERTILIZER.

A high class fertilizer, not only for use

in the garden generally, but also for the

cultivation of the soil, as it assists the process

of assimilation, thereby aiding the plants to

draw from the soil the elements of life.

Solid tin containing 100 lbs. \$1.50.

Bags 250 lbs. \$4.00.

Directions for use are given on the label.

A. S. WATSON & COMPANY,

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 17th September, 1891.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Only communications relating to the news columns

should be addressed to "The Editor."

Correspondents are requested to forward their names

and addresses with communications addressed to the

Editor, not to the public, but as evidence of good

faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one

side of the paper only.

Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should

be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.

After that hour the press is limited.

Telegraphic Address Press. Telephone No. 12.

DEATH.

At Hongkong, on the 20th October, 1891, FRANKLIN

GRACE NEWMAN, late of Hongkong, wife of

FRANKLIN GRACE NEWMAN, aged 40 years.

Buried on the 21st October, 1891.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, OCTOBER 23RD, 1891.

The Government is evidently getting

somewhat restive under the Hon. T. H. WATTS.

HEAD's severe questioning. The answers

to the seven members' questions at the last

meeting of the Legislative Council took

three quarters of an hour to read, and the

Acting Governor said that if such questions

were likely to be continued it would become

a serious question whether the staff of civil

servants was to be increased by a number of

men or whether their salaries should be

raised in recognition of the overtime which

facilitate reference to blue books and printed

papers as well as unpublished documents. If

it would have been little trouble for Mr.

WATTS, as His Excellency seems to suggest,

to obtain much of the information he

required from blue books, etc., it must have

been still less trouble for the Government

servants, who ought to have the various

subjects at their finger ends; and seeing

moreover, that the Public Works Department

is vastly over-manned, the compiling of

the information so far as that Department

is concerned ought not to have been

considered a task of any great importance.

In any case, however, the answers to the

questions are well worth whatever time and

trouble they may have cost in compiling.

As part of the answers to Mr. WATTS'

questions two returns were laid on the

table, one showing the cost of the public

works mentioned, and the other the officers

now employed in the Public Works Department,

with the salaries and the duties per-

formed by each. The staff numbers about

fifty and the salaries amount to a total of

\$4,799 per month, not including that of the

Surveyor-General, whose office is at present

vacant. Adding on the salary of the Surveyor-

General we get a total of \$5,347, to which

has to be added \$451 for conveyance. From such

a strong and expensive staff the Colony has

a right to look for very good and economical

work. But whatever may be the quality

of the work—and on that ground there

is perhaps little room for complaint—

these certainly appear to be very little

attention paid to economy. The Civil Hos-

pital staff quarters, now approaching com-

pletion, are to cost over \$65,000. So much

has already been said as to this particular

work that it may be considered supererogatory

to refer again to the wasteful

extravagance by which it has been charac-

terized. We cannot pretend to go through

the list of works in detail and say by how

much the cost of each might have been

reduced had it not been Government work;

but to take off something between twenty

five and fifty per cent. would probably not be

extravagant.

In connection with the construction of

the Gap Rock Lighthouse the Hongkong and

Whampoa Dock Company offered to place

the steamship *Penne* at the disposal of the

Government whenever required at so much a

trip; the Government, however, thought it

necessary to purchase the steamer, and it is

now found, so it is reported, that the cost

per trip comes to more than the amount of

the Dock Company's tender, besides which

there is the loss of interest on the cost of

the vessel and the probable loss on her re-

turn at the completion of the work. We

cannot pledge ourselves to the absolute

accuracy of the computation of the relative

cost of voyages made by the *Kams* as Gov-

ernment property and according to the

tender of the Dock Company, but there ap-

pears to be good grounds for believing

that the purchase of the vessel was an

expensive bargain for the Colony. Gov-

ernment extravagance, however, exhibits

itself most plainly to the ordinary in-

dividual in the matter of buildings for

most men of business can run their eye

over bricks and mortar and form a rough

idea of what the work ought to cost. \$21,000

will probably seem to most people rather

a high figure to pay for the Public Lumberies

at the end of Kennedy Road; \$24,000 also

seems an extravagant sum for the Police

Station at Kennedytown; and any builder

we think would be willing to offer to enter

into a contract to put up the quarters for

the Botanical and Afforestation Depart-

ment for \$12,000 or \$14,000, although

the work is costing the Government over

\$80,000. The present system is, in fact,

a ruinously extravagant one. In the case of

the Victoria College, for instance, it is ad-

mitted that the Government paid at least

\$100,000 more than it ought to have done.

Whatever may be said of such works as

roads, conduits, reservoirs, sea walls, and

the like, with regard to buildings the only

possible plan is for the Government to

proceed on the same lines as ordinary in-

dividuals and avail itself of the services

of private architects and the competition

of the open market. To pay an average excess

of 25 per cent. on the cost of every building

erected, merely for the sake of keeping up

an expensive Public Works establishment,

is a most irrational proceeding.

Messrs. David Sassoon, Sons & Co. inform us

that the steamer *Lighthouse*, from Calcutta, left

Singapore for this port yesterday.

The P. & O. steamer *Pennar* was released

from quarantine this morning. She will

proceed to Shanghai this morning.

The trial of Charles H. A. W. Mason for the

illegal possession of dynamite will take place

before Chief Justice (Hannan) and a jury at

Shanghai tomorrow (Thursday).

Mr. Clement Allen, of the Consular Service,

was appointed at Shanghai by the C. P. steamer

Empress of China and was to go to Chong-

qing, then to Amoy and to Hongkong.

The Willard Opera Company give their last

performance at the Theatre Royal on the

24th inst. The company will be placed on the

boards.

We hear that Mr. E. J. Woodin has been

arrested in Japan. The charge against him is

embodiment of some \$100,000, the money of

the P. & O. Company.

In the Supreme Court in Bankruptcy, yes-

terday morning, before His Honor the Chief

Justice, W. H. Jackson, the discharge

of opposition was offered and the bankrupt was

therefore discharged.

The Victoria Recreation Club intends to hold

several four-mile races about the 14th Novem-

ber to enable strokes to pick their crews for

the regatta. The strokes are to be appointed by

ballot, and will pick their crews from the

clubs, which close on Saturday at 5 p.m., when

the crews will be picked.

The German gunboat *Wolf* has left the harborfor Hankow, to relieve the *Alte*, the latter

being destined to proceed after a good over-

haul to Shanghai and winter there. The

place of the *Alte* in the "watch on the Yang-tze," will be taken by the *Monarca*, the latterbeing taken by the *Admiral* up to Shanghai, andthe *Admiral* will stay at Weasung.

The St. Andrew's Society of Shanghai has

decided that the annual celebration shall take

place on the 24th inst. The celebration will be

held at the residence of Mr. J. H. Jackson, the

Chief Justice, and will consist of a dinner

and a ball. The dinner will be given at the

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tice, and will consist of a dinner and a ball.

The Police Court yesterday a coo-

ple employed on the Peak Tramway was charged

with neglect of duty. It appears it was the de-

fendant's duty to see that the tramway was

kept in good order, and that the tramway was

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